



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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Introduction & Context

The Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS) has been a beacon of hope and service since its inception in 1984. Committed towards promoting socio-economic development, SBSS plays a pivotal role in uplifting the most marginalized communities across India. Our work is driven by a deep-rooted belief in people-led change, ensuring that every individual, regardless of religion, caste, creed, colour, or community, has the opportunity to lead a life of dignity and purpose. With nearly four decades of experience, SBSS has become a trusted partner in addressing some of the most pressing challenges faced by the poorest communities. We focus on critical areas such as livelihood enhancement, employment, food security, education, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), nutrition, and overall well-being. Presently our initiatives are spread across five states—Punjab, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Maharashtra—where we work in coordination with local populations, different government departments, and other likeminded organizations to create sustainable, long-lasting development.

At SBSS, we understand that true progress is not just about economic growth but also about fostering a sense of community ownership, and self-reliance. Our programs are designed to equip individuals, giving them the skills and knowledge to improve their own lives and contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities. Through a collaborative approach, we ensure that people are served and that their needs are at the forefront of our efforts.

Our Priorities

To end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity, the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 set out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve by 2030. India is signatory to it for addressing the country's development

challenges and guiding policies and programs towards achieving sustainable development. SBSS programs are also designed in line with SDGs.

Out of the 17 goals, SBSS is working on 5 goals in the following manner:

1. Income Generation & Asset Creation (SDG 1- No Poverty and SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth)

SBSS works with Poorest communities to identify their economic issues and facilitate solutions to their livelihood problems through various income generation activities.

- Women Self-Help groups are trained in different alternative livelihoods
- Agriculture: small and marginal farmers are engaged in organic farming for increased incomes.
- The youth in the community are trained with different skill building workshops for employment and career development.

2. Ensuring Good Nutrition (SDG 2- Zero Hunger)

SBSS works to improve the nutritional status of young children and women of reproductive age; by ensuring access to benefits under Government schemes like ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme), by helping communities develop nutrition gardens to provide nutritious food to families as well as through other social security schemes.

3. Facilitating Quality Education (SDG 4-Quality Education)

- Creating awareness in the community on the importance of education to lower the dropout rate, especially among girl children, and
- ensure effective functioning of schools in the village as per the Right to Education (RTE) Act.
- 12 Children's clubs and children's libraries are formed to enhance their creativity, personality, and communication skills.

4. Working on SDG 5- Gender Equality

- Ensuring women and girl children live with dignity and respect without facing any gender discrimination.
- They should gain equal access to education, health, sanitation and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

5. Access To Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation (SDG 6- Clean Water and Sanitation)

SBSS works to ensure that communities

- To access to safe drinking water and toilet facilities under the Government's Jal Shakti Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- Awareness building programs are conducted to create awareness in the community on open defecation, sanitation, good menstrual hygiene for women and girls, water conservation, and preservation.

Area of Operations

70+ employees and specialists working at 10 project offices, 2 program support offices, and a Head office.

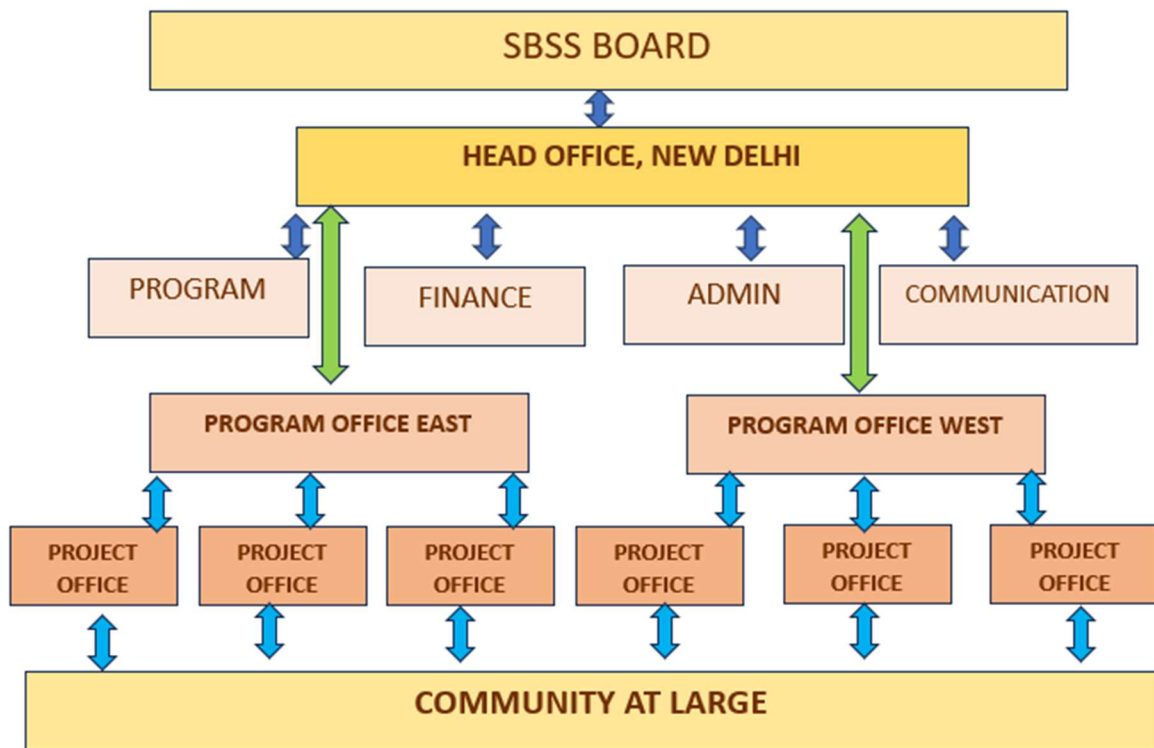
The team comprises of staff from Program, Finance, Communication and Administration. Along with these 300 volunteers assist SBSS teams in village development work.



Beneficiaries	Female	Male
Children in the 0 - 6 years age group	11,643	12,858
Children in the 6 - 18 years age group	33,266	37,512
Adult Population	51,338	54,829
Total	96,247	1,05,199

SBSS has its registered office (head-office) at New Delhi and two Program Support offices at Pune (West) and Bhubaneswar (East). 10 project offices are at different locations with teams comprising of 5-10 members each.

The Programs team comprises of field staff, referred to as CEs (Community Enablers), responsible for regular community engagement and facilitate change processes at the grass root level. The coordinators provide guidance to the field team in daily operations and consolidate all data and information, reporting to the Program Officers at the regional level. The Programs team, alongside the Finance and Communications team, reports to the Chief Coordinator of SBSS.



(Organogram of SBSS)

Programmes

In 2022-2023, SBSS began a focused set of development activities aimed at poverty alleviation. The main priority during the reporting period was to lay the foundation for sustainable farming systems based on organic and allied techniques within the community. SBSS also worked to raise household nutrition levels through awareness building and enrolment under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), and to start establishing nutrition gardens in rural households.

With climate change becoming a daily reality for farming families, the shift to organic farming offers real hope. By promoting practices that protect the environment and support community well-being, SBSS took its first steps toward a more sustainable and resilient future for the communities it serves.

Organic farming

In this first year, SBSS introduced a range of innovative organic practices: bacterial soil fertilization, NPK-based organic fertilizer, and advanced organic insecticides and pesticides that farmers can easily prepare at home. Technical support such as soil testing, water testing and bacterial treatment was initiated, and focused workshops were held to develop an entrepreneurial mindset among farmers. Cost-benefit analysis and agri-architectural design were introduced, along with attention to crop multiplication and 3G pruning to raise production, since most of the farmers are small holders with 1-2 acres of land.

180+ farmers were engaged in organic farming and allied activities such as poultry, goater, piggery and fisheries, with scope to increase their annual earnings, across Nagpur, Kolhapur, Chotanagpur, Kolkata, Barrackpore, Durgapur and Phulbani. 30 organic farming demonstration plots were established for live demonstration of organic techniques and for building the capacity of other small and marginal farmers, with technical know-how and financial support from SBSS.



Organic Farming



Allied Activity

Food security and nutrition

SBSS began work on food security and nutrition disparities among marginalised communities through knowledge building and behaviour change around dietary habits, such as what to eat and how to eat. Weight and height monitoring of children below 6 years and women of reproductive age was started as a regular process. SBSS engaged community stakeholders (men, women, children and adolescents) and government-run ICDS centres to raise awareness of inter-generational malnutrition and its long-term effects on family health. Healthy feeding practices, good pre- and postnatal care and diverse local diets were promoted through nutrition gardens, especially for women and children.

Through this linkage, 1,500 children (0 to 6 years) and 1,050 women benefited from the nutrition interventions, and early signs of improvement in BMI were seen as diets became more diverse and supplementary nutrition was accessed. 1,500 nutrition gardens were set up during the year with technical and financial support from SBSS, helping households improve nutrition and save on vegetable expenses.



Women's economic empowerment

SBSS started supporting the economic empowerment of women by helping them access government schemes such as MGNREGA and its guarantee of the "Right to Work". Entrepreneurship development, linkages between women-run SHGs and banks, markets, government institutions and schemes, and technical support laid the groundwork for better lives in disadvantaged communities. Women took up income generation activities such as poultry, goatery, piggery, dairy, stitching and tailoring, sari embroidery, making pickles, papad, sauce and phenyl, handicrafts, tea stalls and grocery shops, and were given financial training in accounting and management.

900+ women were engaged in alternative livelihoods and small businesses through 180 SHGs and direct livelihood support, and 1,937 households were engaged in MGNREGA work.



Income Generation Activities of SHGs

Awareness, education and WASH

Nutrition awareness campaigns were organised in 30 villages to encourage healthy diets, healthy cooking practices, better hygiene and child care. Creative mediums were used to promote handwashing with soap, ending open defecation and responsible management of solid and liquid waste. More than 1,500 people participated actively, contributing to behaviour change and community participation under the ICDS.



Height and weight measurement of children and spot- feeding of children

In education, 3,394 children were supported to attend government schools regularly and receive their benefits under the Right to Education. 3 Leadership Development Centres were set up as remedial classes for 90 children enrolled in local government schools where the home environment is not conducive to study. They offer evening classes on school subjects and training in public speaking, story writing, painting and sports.



Drinking water sources and Toilets

SBSS worked to ensure access to clean drinking water within 500 metres of households and to toilet facilities with water available for use. This included building and repairing hand-pumps, tube-wells and water taps, and conducting water quality tests. Community meetings promoted personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene for

women and girls, and water conservation. In this first year, 1,500 households gained access to clean drinking water and 611 household toilets were built under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, reducing open defecation in the target villages.

Youth and schemes

30 youth were trained in vocational skills as drivers, mechanics, beauticians, tailors, electricians and mobile repairers, according to their choice. SBSS began building the capacity of 90 youth volunteers, called Youth Resource Persons (YRPs), who take part in village-level development activities and support SBSS teams.

SBSS works for better reach of various welfare schemes initiated by the Government of India for the beneficiaries from marginalised communities irrespective of caste, creed colour and community. They received benefits under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal (MDM), Right to Education (RTE), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pensions schemes for Widows, Old Age, Handicapped Persons, Public Distribution Schemes (PDS), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) etc of the Government of India and State Governments.

SBSS networked with Krishi Vikas Kendras in different states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra for training of farmers on innovative organic farming techniques and ICDS centres for development of Children and mothers.

We are collaborated with different agencies and government departments to provide skill development and capacity building trainings for the women and youth.

Future Plan

As CNI SBSS looks ahead to the coming year, our focus is on consolidating the gains of the past year while preparing the ground for a wider expansion of our community development work. We anticipate broadening our food and nutrition security efforts to reach more villages across our existing project geographies, alongside launching a more focused push on women's socio-economic empowerment within our tribal and dalit communities. We also see the coming year as an opportunity to deepen our engagement with youth, moving more intentionally into skill development and vocational training so that young people in our project areas are better equipped for employment and community leadership.

Alongside this expansion, we remain committed to strengthening what already works. Our nutrition garden and organic farming models, which have shown strong results in several of our project areas, will be extended further, and our Self-Help Group approach to women's livelihoods will continue to grow, with closer linkages to government schemes, banks and markets. We also intend to invest further in our youth leadership initiatives, building a stronger base of young people who can carry forward awareness and action within their own villages.

Looking further ahead, CNI SBSS recognises that the development landscape in India is shifting, and that long-term impact will depend on our ability to diversify how our work is resourced and sustained. We are beginning to explore avenues beyond traditional international partnerships, including domestic funding sources, corporate collaboration, and closer engagement with relevant government departments. In time, we hope this thinking can evolve into a genuine push toward greater self-reliance for the organisation. We also see real potential to extend our work into new regions in the years to come, carrying our model of community-led, dignity-centred development further. Through all of this, transparency and accountability will continue to anchor how we work — not as an external requirement, but as a value we hold for our own sake and for the trust of the communities and partners who walk this journey with us.

Conclusion

SBSS aimed to initiate a dialogue in the community on good nutrition by instilling good nutritional behaviour, effective implementation of ICDS services, and food security with better incomes through organic farming. It addressed malnutrition while looking at the larger issue of hunger. Our activities were focused on improving the nutritional situation of young children and women of reproductive age and increasing the income of small farmers in intervention areas through natural integrated farming.

Nutrition was looked within the broader perspective of ending hunger as a direct intervention while sustaining the work on education, water, sanitation, and livelihood through organic farming practices. We built informed communities and established an efficient system for monitoring the health of malnourished children and women.

With approaches like integrated organic farming and innovations like multi-layer farming, mixed cropping, livestock management, and developing home-grown organic inputs for agriculture, we worked with farmers to make their agricultural livelihood sustainable with increased incomes, cost-effectiveness, and profitability for future expansion and small agribusinesses. Youth were involved in the aspects of sustainability as well as for creating new generation of farmers engaged in climate resilient agriculture.

S.No	Benefits Received	Number of Beneficiaries
1.	Organic Farming Technical/Financial Support	180 Farmers
2.	Demonstration Plots showcasing Organic farming and allied activities	30 Households
3.	Supplementary Nutrition through ICDS	1500 children (0 to 6 yrs) and 1050 women
4.	Nutrition Garden – Technical and Financial Support	1500 Households
5	Alternative Livelihood Support and training	900+ women engaged in alternative livelihood and small businesses. 1937 HH engaged in MGNREGA work
6	Training and Awareness on importance Education	3394 children regularly attending schools
7	Training and Awareness on importance of Clean Drinking Water	1500 Households gained access to clean drinking water and
8	Training and Awareness on importance of using toilets to prevent open defecation	611 new Household toilet were built under <i>Swach Bharat Abhiyan</i> of the Government

Governing Body

Mr. B.B. Baskey, Chairperson

Mr. Surendra Nanda, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Soumya Ranjan Mohanty, Chief Coordinator & Secretary

Mr. Manjur Halder, Treasurer

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